

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicants have enclosed a Replacement Sheet of Figure 1.

REMARKS

Claims 4 and 5 have been amended. New claims 13-22 have been added.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required claims fees to Shell Oil Company, Deposit Account No. 19-1800.

Applicants' Preliminary Amendment under 37 CFR 1.115 filed 6 May 2005 listed claims 1-8. A Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121) mailed June 28, 2006 indicated that the amendment document was non-compliant because claims 9-12 were not listed. Applicants' Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment filed 12 July 2006 listed claims 9-12 as canceled. Applicants suggest that the Amended Sheets with the PCT International Preliminary Examination Report of International application No. PCT/EP 03/50821, from which the present application is a US national stage filing, listed claims 1-8. Applicants suggest that the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121) mailed June 28, 2006 may not have been correct. However, to help advance the prosecution of the present application, Applicants have listed claims 9-12 as canceled in the present Amendment.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 4-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action at page 2 indicates that the word "preferably" renders the scope of the claims vague and indefinite, since it is not clear whether the corresponding limitations are required.

Applicants suggest that the claim rejections of claims 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, have been rendered moot by Applicants' amendment of claims 4 and 5.

Objections to the Drawing and Specification

The Drawing and specification have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.84 (u) (1) in

referring to the sole figure as "Figure 1". The Office Action at page 2 indicates that the specification is objected to in failing to include a "Brief Description of Drawings".

Applicants suggest that the objection to the Drawing and specification have been rendered moot by Applicants' submittal of the enclosed Replacement Sheet of Figure 1 removing the phrase "Figure 1" and Applicants' amendments to the specification regarding the figure. Applicants also suggest that the enclosed Replacement Sheet of Figure 1 includes underlining of numbers and lead lines.

Allowed Claims

The Office Action at page 2 indicates that claims 1-3 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 and the objections to the drawing and specification. Applicants also respectfully request entry and consideration of the above amendments and remarks to advance the above-identified application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure (Replacement Sheet of Figure 1)